

### **Wire Basket Removal Process**

- Remove the burlap from the immediate trunk area of the tree. Remove any excess soil to locate and expose the trunk flare. *(If the trunk flare is buried within the root ball remove excess soil from top of ball.)*
- Before the tree is placed in the planting hole, remove the bottom of the basket with wire cutters cutting the basket horizontally.
- Lift the tree into the planting space by the root ball, not the trunk.
- Cut away remaining strings, burlap and plastic to expose the root ball.
- Remove the rest of the wire basket by vertically cutting the basket and peeling the basket off.
- Do not plant the root ball too deep. The trunk flare and the top of root ball should be 1-2" above grade.
- Begin refilling the planting space up to the trunk flare, watering as you refill to firmly set tree. Gently tamp.

### **Tree Staking Process (when necessary)**

- Staking shall use either a two or three-point support system.
- Any staking mechanism should be flexible enough to allow the stem and root system to develop strength. Attach the tree to either wood or metal stakes (2" X 2" X 6') with wide plastic or nylon straps.
- If a guy wire/rope is used it shall be placed through hose material around each tree then twisted to secure the tree in a relatively stable position.
- The strap or wire/rope shall be secured to each stake at an approximately right angle.

**Note:** Stakes must not be driven through the root ball. The guys and stakes shall be maintained for the duration of the contract. Trees should be checked periodically to insure that the trunks are not being damaged or girdled. All materials used to support trees shall be removed and disposed of after one year, except as otherwise directed for trees requiring additional bracing time.

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